REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 13, 2007. Claims 1-10 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are the independent Claims. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended. New Claims 8-10 have been added. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 5-7 were indicated to be allowable if re-written to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowable subject matter of Claims 5-7.

New Claims

New Claims 8-10 are based on the allowable subject matter of independent Claim 5 and are dependent on Claim 5. Since independent Claim 5 recites allowable subject matter, it is believed that new Claims 8-10 recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. In response, applicant has amended that claim to address the

concern expressed in the Office Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,027,527 (Asano). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Asano Reference

Asano is directed to a balloon-expandable stent having struts with a width of 5 μm to 300 μm and a thickness of 5 to 200 μm *(See Asano; Col. 4, line 55 – Col. 5, line 6 and FIG. 3).*

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a stent used for intracranial vascular therapy.

As defined by independent Claim 1, a stent for intracranial vascular therapy includes a plurality of main struts and a plurality of link struts as its constituents. The stent is made of a single material having higher radiopacity than that of stainless steel. The main struts and the link struts each have a width ranging from 100 μm to 200 μm and a thickness ranging from 50 μm to 100 μm.

The applied references do not disclose or suggest the features of the present invention as defined by independent Claim 1. In particular, the applied references do not disclose or suggest, "the stent is made of a single material," and "the main

struts and the link struts each have a width ranging from 100 μm to 200 μm and a thickness ranging from 50 μm to 100 μm," as required by independent Claim 1.

Asano is directed to a stent 10 expanded using a balloon catheter and a physiological brine *(see Asano; Col. 5, lines 22-29).* Asano discloses struts having a width of 5 μm to 300 μm and a thickness of 5 to 200 μm *(See Asano; Col. 4, line 55 – Col. 5, line 6 and FIG. 3).*

In contrast, the present invention requires the stent to be made from a single material and to have a width ranging from 100 μm to 200 μm and a thickness ranging from 50 μm to 100 μm. A stent made from a single material prevents bimetallic corrosion known as galvanic corrosion and prevents an inflammatory response in the blood vessels that can produce vascular obstruction or restenosis over stents made from more than a single material *(See Specification; Page 15, line 23 – Page 16, line 15).* Therefore, the present invention "induces no biological reaction in the blood vessel due to galvanic corrosion or the like, and has elevated visibility under X-ray radioscopy," *(See Specification; Page 10, lines 19-20).* Furthermore, Asano does not disclose or suggest Applicant's specific width-thickness combination. This feature improves the radial force against blood vessels and flexibility that allows the stent to track highly torturous blood vessels.

Thus, Asano does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by independent Claim 1, and the ancillary references do not remedy the deficiencies of Asano.

Since the applied reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in independent Claim 1, that reference cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1 and 5 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

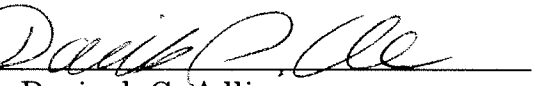
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: May 4, 2007

By: 
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